### Takhar Province

#### **OVERVIEW**

USAID estimated support for Takhar from January 2002 - June 2011: \$83.1 million

Estimated population: 871,000 (Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan Central Statistics Office: Estimated Population of

Afghanistan 2008-2009) Capital: Taluqan Note: US-led PRT



The mountainous province of Takhar was established in 1964 when Qataghan Province was divided into Baghlan, Kunduz, and Takhar. Its population comprises a number of diverse ethnic groups, including Tajik and Uzbek, with smaller groups of Turkmen, Pashtun, and Hazara. The Takhar River supplies water to this remote, fertile region, and a well-developed irrigation system sustains its agriculture. While cereal crops dominate the market, Takhar's pistachio forests, destroyed by decades of war, are slowly being rehabilitated and are expected to be a main economic driver in the future. Takhar also has untapped reserves of coal, gold, and salt.

#### **AGRICULTURE**

Goal: Increase agricultural-sector jobs and income through a) increased agricultural productivity by increasing farmer access to inputs and effective extension services; b) invigorated agribusiness by increasing linkages between farmers, markets, credit, and trade corridors; and c) rehabilitated watersheds and improved irrigation infrastructure. Also, increase Afghans' confidence in their government by increased Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock's (MAIL) capacity to deliver services and promote the private sector and farmer associations through direct budget and technical assistance.

**Summary:** USAID prepares farmers to participate in a modern agricultural economy through improved agricultural opportunities, veterinary services, improved irrigation, and training.

#### **Current Activities:**

- Build roads and construct irrigation systems and flood protection
- Train farmers and government staff in commercial vegetables, oilseeds, rice, feed crops, high-value crops, grapes, timber, fruit and nut orchards and nurseries, and improved livestock practices
- Increase the economic viability and capacity of agricultural related input supplier businesses

- Contributed to the development of the rangeland law on behalf of herders
- Conducted rangeland survey
- Establish a farm service center
- Institutionalized three rangeland management technologies
- Trained Kuchi leaders in peace and negotiation methods and conflict resolution
- Completed two wash culvert super-passages projects, two dike projects on the Taloqan River, and two
  canal intakes and a gabion protection wall in Taloqan, Kalafghan, and Yangi Qala districts
- Established 959 demonstration farms for orchard and commercial crops



### Takhar Province

- Provided technical training for more than 30,300 farmers
- Provided agricultural and livestock inputs such as improved vegetable seeds, certified fruit saplings for orchards, fertilizers and pruning tools, pullets, poultry feed, wire mesh, windows, doors, balanced animal feed, bee hives, empty boxes for beekeeping with other complete tools for 316 farmers

#### **DEMOCRACY & GOVERNANCE**

**Goal:** Build the capacity of government institutions to improve the quality and quantity of public services to Afghan citizens. Support independent media institutions and advocacy groups.

**Summary:** USAID supports democracy and governance in Takhar Province through activities including legislative strengthening, electoral support, justice sector reform, media, and civil-society development.

#### **Current Activities:**

- Provide capacity building training to civil-society organizations
- Support a radio station
- Train provincial- and district-level civil servants in the five common functions highlighted in the Afghanistan National Development Strategy
- Provide the provincial governor with operational resources and money for community outreach and micro projects to support his needs and serve as incentive to develop
- Develop the human and institutional capacity of the courts, increase access to justice particularly for women, and develop and implement a case tracking system including professional training for judges and administrators on the system
- Provide institutional capacity development and advocacy support to women-focused Afghan civil-society organizations

- Supported justice sector development through the publication and distribution of Judicial Reference Law sets, a 17-volume collection of laws, to 59 judges in the province
- Developed and trained judges and court administrators in the new Afghanistan Court Administration System, a case-management system that improves the courts' ability to manage cases and provide due process, leading to more effective and transparent rule of law
- Supported justice sector development through a one-month Foundation Training Program for 51 sitting
  judges and a one-year Supreme Court-mandated Stage Judicial Training Program for 23 judicial
  candidates, providing judges with access to the tools necessary to officiate over the courts
- Assisted the Supreme Court in drafting a new ethics code for all judges and provided training for all of Afghanistan's judges in the contents and importance of the code. Takhar's judges received additional training in women's rights under Islam
- Promoted legal and human rights awareness, including women's rights, through public education campaigns in a variety of media, thereby making information accessible even to those who cannot read
- Established women-focused community development councils and provided training for more than 200 teachers and community leaders to promote women's rights
- Promoted public participation in governance through civic education, voter registration, and election monitoring for the 2004-2005 elections
- Facilitated consensus-building efforts through civic education training and dialogue sessions with mullahs and sharia teachers



## **Takhar Province**

- Provided training to the provincial council, which improved professionalism, knowledge, and skills, resulting in more effective and transparent leadership
- Supported the 2008 voter registration exercise, assisted domestic and international observation missions, trained political parties and independent poll agents, conducted a series of poll surveys ahead of the elections, and ultimately helped conduct the 2009/2010 elections
- Provided capacity building training to five civil-society organizations
- Established a radio station
- Awarded 43 grants
- Trained 887 civil servants in the Afghanistan National Development Strategy

#### **ECONOMIC GROWTH**

Goal: Create a developed business climate that enables private investment, job creation, and financial independence.

**Summary:** USAID's economic growth program helps the Afghan government develop sound economic governance and works with the private sector to stimulate investment and business opportunities. USAID partners with Afghans and the Afghan government to attract investment, generate sustainable employment, and expand market linkages. USAID promotes economic development in Takhar Province through automating banking services, expanding access to telecommunications, and supporting business associations.

#### **Current Activities:**

 Provide provincial budgeting support to select line ministries and providing training to provincial officials through the establishment of regional provincial budgeting training hubs

- Installed 18 district communications network centers, operated by Afghan Telecom, that provide telephones, internet, and photocopying services to district government officials and the public
- Implemented an automated Core Banking System, provided training for bank staff, and expanded and
  refurbished the provincial branch of Da Afghanistan Bank (DAB) that operates as the paying agent for the
  government and disburses all social, payroll, and procurement payments. Services such as these
  increase the effectiveness and efficiency of the social and economic infrastructure of Afghanistan,
  contributing to the development of the public and private-sectors
- Trained customs staff on customs law, declarations, valuation, tariffs, data entry, and preparation of trade statistics to build a professional, modern customs authority
- Installed the Revenue Reconciliation and Accounting database in the Takhar Mustofiat, which has
  dramatically reduced processing times of Afghan government revenue receipts, production on revenue
  reports, and uploading into the consolidated Ministry of Finance Financial Management System
- Trained radio, television, and print journalists on the value of trade and trade issues in order to encourage more and better coverage of trade-related issues
- Updated the map of the entire city of Taluqan to expand tenure formalization activities and facilitate the
  implementation of the master city plan developed by the Ministry of Urban Development and has
  improved land tenure security for residents (the first of its kind in Afghanistan; the mapping process
  included the purchase of recent satellite imagery, collection of GPS ground control points, and the onscreen digitization of more than 10,000 property parcels)
- Assessed market potential in the province by performing a full study of the dairy industry
- Formalized land ownership



## **Takhar Province**

- Transferred the assets, liabilities, employees, and associated rights and obligations of the Central Authority for Water Supply and Sewerage through the Ministry of Finance to a new corporation, the Afghan Urban Water Supply and Sanitation Corporation, leading to better water and sanitation services
- Supported 493 small and medium enterprises through association grants and business-development training
- Fostered economic opportunities for businesswomen through support to the Takhar Women Handicrafts Association
- Supported the municipality through a marketplace development grant, improving conditions in local area
- Promoted economic expansion and private-sector development through lending to a variety of businesses in the micro, small, and medium enterprise sector
- Disbursed nearly \$7.8 million in loans through USAID-funded financial institutions
- Promoted improved cash management operations with regard to availability and quality of bank notes in circulation
- Promoted economic related information and data collection activities to build regional economic research and analytical functions introduced in DAB zone offices
- Supported the revenue reconciliation team of the Takhar Mustofiat centered on accurate revenue collection posting and reporting to center

#### **EDUCATION**

**Goal:** Improve the quality of basic education through improved teacher quality and increased availability of primary school textbooks; improve the quality of higher education; improve the livelihoods of urban and rural communities through increased literacy and employability instruction.

**Summary:** USAID supports educational improvements in Takhar Province through two national education projects. USAID has provided radio-based teacher support programs, provided literacy and vocational schools training, printed textbooks, trained education faculty professors, and constructed and/or refurbished schools.

#### **Current Activities:**

- Work with the faculty of education to improve the teaching skills of professors through training in pedagogy, subject knowledge, computer literacy, English, institutional development, leadership, management, administration, professional attitudes, and teacher standards
- Sponsor education opportunities in Afghanistan and abroad for professors
- Offer the 18-month program in literacy and productive skills for youth and adults in 48 communities through 192 literacy centers
- Continue textbook support

#### **Accomplishments:**

- Established 192 literacy centers
- Established a Professional Development Center at the university
- Introduced a Teacher Standards Program and a Standards Working Committee for assessment and validation
- Printed more than 2.6 million textbooks
- Constructed 22 schools serving 7,140 students

#### **HEALTH**



### Takhar Province

Goal: Improve access to and quality of health services and increase the abilities of individuals, families, and communities to protect their health.

**Summary:** USAID's principal health investments in Takhar Province preventative healthcare come through support for the Basic Package of Health Services (BPHS) and the Essential Package of Hospital Services (EPHS), including technical assistance to the Provincial Health Office and implementing non-governmental organizations, pre-service and refresher training for community midwives and Community Health workers, and the provision of refresher training courses for nurses and physicians.

#### **Current Activities:**

- Support 53 health facilities to implement BPHS and EPHS
- Increase the technical and managerial skills of healthcare workers through refresher training for doctors, nurses, and lab technicians
- Fund a province-wide community-based midwifery training program to reduce infant and maternal mortality
- Procure and distribute high-quality pharmaceuticals and contraceptives
- Support social marketing of health and family planning products (such as contraceptives, water purification agents, and oral rehydration salts for diarrhea) through private sector outlets
- Fund the Diseases Early Warning System for 14 routine conditions/diseases in seven sentinel sites
- Implement a pediatric hospital improvement initiative in Taloqan Hospital to improve children's health at the hospital level
- Implement a child survival demonstration project at the community level in Farkhar District, including growth monitoring and promotion, community case management, and newborn care
- Implement the Integrated Child Survival Package at the community level in Baharak and Dashteqala districts, including growth monitoring and promotion, community case management, and newborn care
- Support full implementation of tuberculosis activities including initial and refresher trainings on the
  treatment of tuberculosis, upgrading lab facilities, strengthening lab microscopy, and introducing or
  scaling-up community based initiatives such as community awareness of tuberculosis and treatment of
  tuberculosis by community health workers
- Distribute community awareness materials for tuberculosis, diagnostic, treatment and training packages for tuberculosis including a database information system and maintenance equipment for the database
- Provide on-the-job training to health facilities based on quality assurance findings to ensure healthcare providers have the skills they need
- Fund a province-wide community-based midwifery education program to reduce infant and maternal mortality
- Provide training on reproductive health and family planning to enable religious leaders to provide accurate information to communities
- Support the Provincial Public Health Office and the Provincial Public Health Coordination Committee to strengthen the technical, leadership, and management capacity of the provincial health team to support the delivery of BPHS and EPHS
- Fund province-wide Community Health Worker pre-service and refresher training

- Established three model tuberculosis learning centers for health providers
- Procured and distributed high-quality pharmaceuticals and contraceptives valued at \$1.6 million



### Takhar Province

- Trained 6,500 pharmacists, shura members, and community health workers on safe drinking water, oral rehydration salts, and birth spacing to increase the quality of preventative healthcare
- Graduated 72 midwives from the community-based midwifery training program
- Trained provincial health officers to develop monthly joint monitoring plans to support the delivery of BPHS and EPHS

#### **INFRASTRUCTURE**

**Goal:** Improve infrastructure in order to create licit economic opportunities, promote freedom of movement, and facilitate delivery of government and social services.

**Summary:** The infrastructure program in Takhar Province focuses on the expansion of water and sanitation facilities, while building the capacity of local workers and supporting the provincial economy using locally available materials.

#### **Current Activities:**

• Improve health and sanitation through hygiene education and the construction or rehabilitation of over 1,500 latrines, benefiting some 10,000 residents of Bahark, Kalafgan, and Hazar Somoch districts

#### **Accomplishments:**

- Renovated the Khwaja Ghar water supply system to provide access to drinking water and irrigation
- Rehabilitated 3.5 km of the Khwajabahaudin and Rustaq district center roads, shortening travel time, improving economic opportunities, and providing access to health services and educational institutions

#### **STABILIZATION**

**Goal:** Improve stability, extend the reach of the Afghan government, and promote stabilization efforts that lay the groundwork for medium- to long-term development activities.

**Summary:** USAID creates linkages and builds confidence between communities and the local government through small-scale infrastructure, training, and community-development projects.

#### **Current Activities:**

- Support community-level labor-intensive programs that improve city infrastructure, support community development priorities, and offer temporary employment (wages earned through these public and community works projects enable the poor to purchase food for themselves and their families)
- Procure school furniture for 11 schools in the Namakab, Dashti Qala, Hazar Samouch, and Toloqan districts

- Provided vocational training and basic education programs for women and girls, including health education for more than 100 women
- Provided communications equipment to the Takhar Ministry of Labor, which is used to link the provincial ministry with the central government for increased policy coordination
- Provided technical advisors to the provincial governor, Department of Economy, Department of Public Works, and Department of Labor and Social Affairs
- Supported the Provincial Development Council through capacity- development training



## **Takhar Province**

- Provided office commodities to provincial government facilities
- Helped 5,100 people through community-level labor intensive programs that improve city infrastructure, support community-development priorities, and offer temporary employment
- Provided assistance to 20 families, including small-business and standard kits